

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PRETOR 05599 061525Z

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ACTION VO-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 SY-05 CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00

NSAE-00 SSO-00 TRSE-00 /017 W

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O 061502Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6362

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 5599

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: VISA FOR SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE OFFICER

1. WE HAVE BEEN REQUESTED BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE (SAP), AT THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER LEVEL, FOR A VISA FOR A SAP MAJOR TO VISIT THE US. PURPOSE OF THE VISIT IS TO EXAMINE CANCELLED AMERICAN EXPRESS TRAVELERS CHECKS AT THE AMERICAN EXPRESS HEADQUARTERS IN NYC. THE CASE INVOLVES THE PURCHASE IN SA OF TEN MILLION WORTH OF TRAVELERS CHECKS (IN DOLLARS) WITH SA RAND IN VIOLATION OF THE SA CURRENCY EXCHANGE LAWS. AMERICAN EXPRESS HAS ALREADY SENT FIVE MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF THESE CANCELLED CHECKS TO THE SAP, BUT HAS DECIDED THAT IT WOULD BE EASIER AND CHEAPER TO HAVE A SAP OFFICER EXAMINE THE REMAINDER IN NYC RATHER THAN SENDING THE CHECKS TO SA. CONTACT BETWEEN AMERICAN EXPRESS AND THE SAP HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT THROUGH THE SA EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. AT PRESENT, THERE ARE NO REQUIREMENTS FOR FBI OR NYPD COOPERATION OR INVOLVEMENT AS THE NECESSARY INFORMATION IS TO BE OBTAINED DIRECTLY FROM AMERICAN EXPRESS, WHICH IS COOPERATING WILLINGLY WITH THE SAP.

2. REQUEST DECISION ON ISSUING VISA. DUE TO THE ON-GOING NATURE OF THIS INVESTIGATION AND THE FACT THAT SEVERAL SUSPECTS ARE CURRENTLY IN JAIL, REQUEST THAT A DECISION ON THIS MATTER BE MADE WITHIN TEN DAYS.

BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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